

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4741

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PASS DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCN: ESCAP

SUBJ: ESCAP: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, 24TH SESSION,
NOV. 24-DEC 1, 1975, BANGKOK: FIRST DAY

1. SUMMARY: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE WAS FIRST TO USE NEW CONF HALL. FIRST DAY WAS RELATIVELY UNEVENTFUL DESPITE STRONG RUMOR PRG REPRESENTATIVE WOULD APPEAR. THEY DID NOT. UNDP REP. DEPRESSED SESSION BY DESCRIBING \$35 MILLION DEFICIT WHICH CALLS FOR POSTPONEMENT UNTIL 1977 OR CANCELLATION MOST UNDP FINANCIAL PROGRAMS. MARAMIS, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM UNDP MEETING NEW YORK, CONSIDERS THIS CUT A PERSONAL INSULT. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER ELECTING THAI INSPECTOR GENERAL PRADIT AS CHAIRMAN WHICH CEYLONENE AND INDIAN VICE CHAIRMEN, MEETING BEGAN ROUTINE DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM 4 ON ASIAN RAILWAY ACTIVITIES. MORNING PAPERS HAD MENTIONED ATTENDANCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE AT ESCAP SESSION, BUT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS DECLARED HE HAD BEEN INFORMED SOUTH VIETNAMESE WOULD BEARRIVING NOV 25 TO ATTEND SPECIAL MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FOR REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS. HE WAS LATER INFORMED BY RTG THAT SOUTH VIETNAMESE WOULD ALSO APPEAR AT T&C

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COMMITTEE AFTER NOON NOV 24, BUT THEY DID NOT.

3. ONLY DRAMATIC EVENT WAS DECLARATION IN EARLY AFTERNOON BY UNDP REPRESENTATIVE THAT A \$35 MILLION DEFICIT HAD BEEN DISCOVERED IN UNDP. IT HAD BEEN CAUSED NOT BY LOWERED CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH WERE RUNNING AT AN 11 PERCENT INCREASING RATE INSTEAD OF 15 PERCENT AS PLANNED, BUT BY UNDP GREATER EFFICIENCY IN ALLOCATING FUNDS OVER PAST YEAR. DEFICIT WILL CAUSE CANCELLATION AND POSTPONEMENT MOST ESCAP PROJECTS. ASIAN HIGHWAY IS DEFINITELY CANCELLED TO CHARGE OF INDIA AND IRAN, BUT NOT MARAMIS. MARAMIS OBJECTIONS ARE PERSONAL. HE JUST LEFT A UNDP CONFERENCE ON COUNTRY PROGRAMMING IN EARLY NOV AND RECEIVED NO HINT OF THIS BRUTAL CUT BACK. FOR PAST FEW DAYS ESCAP HAD BEEN RECEIVING REAHS OF MSGS CANCELLING OR POSTPONING MOST OF MARAMIS' PET PRIORITY AREA PROGRAMS. HE FEELS HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN OPPORTUNITY PARTICIPATE SELECTION PROJECTS TO BE CONTINUED. HE FEELS PERSONALLY INSULTED AND INTENDS TO OBJECT STRENUOUSLY TO UNDP NEW YORK. NOT SURPRISINGLY BY NIGHTFALL, RUMOR WAS CIRCULATING THAT UNDP CUT WAS DIRECT RESULT OF US RETALIATION FOR ZIONISM/ RACISM RESOLUTION. SOUTH ASIANS ESPECIALLY RELISHED THIS ONE.

4. REST OF DAY FILLED WITH ROUTINE ACCOUNTS OF RAILWAY DEVELOPMENTS WITH IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVE LISTING ORDER PLACED WITH OVER A DOZEN COUNTRIES FOR RAILS, RAILWAY CARS, REEFERS, ETC. THE PROBLEMS OF SPARE PART STOCKAGE NEVER WAS MENTIONED. SEATAC REP. MADE A USEFUL SPEECH ON BENEFITS OF COOPERATION WITH ESCAP AND CITED US FUNDED PORT PROJECTS IN BATANGAS AND PALEMBANG AS GOOD EXAMPLES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE TRANSMIT BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON UNDP \$35 MILLION DEFICIT WHICH WE CAN PASS TO HARAMIS AND USE IN OUR DEFENSE.
WHITEHOUSE

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